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Dated: January 5, 2005

Signature: *Sandy Vi*  
(Sandy Vi)Docket No.: 514942000110  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re Patent Application of:****Alex M. SAUNDERS****Application No.: 10/726,224****Art Unit: 1641****Filed: December 1, 2003****Examiner: G. Counts****For: LIGAND BASED SOLUTION ASSAY FOR  
LOW CONCENTRATION ANALYTES****AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

pa-946079

2202 25x16 = 400

01/12/2005 FINDER 00000003 031952 10726224  
01 FC:2202 400.00 DA

Application No.: 10/726,224

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Docket No.: 514942000110

CONCLUSION

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 514942000110. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: January 5, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Carol M. Gruppi  
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